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Congressional Document.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 1, 1841.

The report from the Ordnance office exhibits the measures which have been taken for the armament of fortifications, and the forts which have been wholly or partially armed. This object will be steadily and vigorously pursued, to the extent of the means provided by Congress. The estimate for that purpose is the amount originally contemplated as being necessary to the completion of the armament as rapidly as the nature of the service would permit. It is to be hoped that, in view of the great importance of the object, no reduction of the estimate will be made.

The attention of Congress has, for the last ten years, been repeatedly invoked to the necessity of a foundry for cannon, belonging to, and under the charge of the Government; but, from an apprehension of the great expense which it was supposed would be incurred by such an establishment, or from a doubt of its necessity, nothing has yet been done towards its accomplishment. Believing that a plan might be devised on a much more limited scale of expense, which would attain the principal objects in view, the Ordnance Bureau was directed to consider and mature such a plan, and estimate the cost of its execution. The accompanying report (No. 12) from that Bureau presents such a plan, explains the important use which the public service would derive from its adoption, and furnishes estimates of the expense of its execution. Some additional views in its favor are presented in the accompanying letter of the Chief Engineer. I cannot hesitate earnestly to recommend its execution. It is known that there are some hundreds of different kinds of iron produced from our mines, of various qualities, and adapted to different uses. While one species may be valuable for many purposes, it is utterly unfit for others. It is supposed, also, that its value may depend much on the kind of fuel used in its fabrication. It is not to be expected that the experiments necessary to determine these and various other matters connected with the manufacture of cannon of the best quality can be made at private expense. Nor, if they were, could such entire reliance be placed on their results as if they had been conducted by disinterested public officers. Besides, the Government is almost exclusively the purchaser of the article, and has the deepest interest in its quality. It is, therefore, peculiarly its interest as well as duty to assist, by all proper means, the manufacture, in the cheapest manner, of the best material. The experience already obtained of the great improvement in our small arms, effected by the operations of the national armories, affords the best guarantee that similar results will attend the employment of similar means in the construction of cannon. As it is not proposed to take the business into the hands of the Government exclusively, but to continue the purchase of cannon from private establishments, the expense of executing the plan will be comparatively unimportant. The foundry may be connected with one of our arsenals, so as to be under the charge of officers already in the public service, by which the cost of its construction and supervision may be essentially diminished. Admonished, as we are, by the effort of other nations to improve the weapons of destruction, it would seem that no time should be lost in the necessary incipient measures to select and purchase a site for a foundry, on the limited scale suggested, but capable of expansion according to future exigencies;

and it is therefore hoped that the sum estimated for that purpose will be appropriated at the coming session of Congress.

In the report from this department submitted to Congress with the President's message at the last session, the objections to the civil superintendency of the national armories were fully stated, and the propriety of dispensing with such agencies, was forcibly urged. A board of very competent citizens was appointed, on the 19th of August last, to examine the armory at Springfield, and their very able report fully justifies the objections that had been thus made. It shows, what might indeed have been expected, that the immediate and direct responsibility secured by the employment of the regular officers having charge of every other branch of the military service, was wanting in this, and that it could not be attained so long as a person was employed as a superintendent who did not feel his obligations to his superior officers. System and regularity, in the hours of labor, are as essential in this as in any other workshop. The 9th section of the act of February 8, 1815, and which section is still in force, places the different public armories under the direction of the Ordnance Department, in order "to ensure system and uniformity in their operations." There were officers of that department who could be spared from other service to take charge of the armories, and they were detailed for that purpose by the head of this Department who immediately preceded the present incumbent.

Believing this arrangement in accordance with the spirit of the law, and finding its propriety confirmed by the evidence afforded by the report already mentioned, it has been adhered to. The office of superintendent, therefore, has been left vacant from a consideration of its being not only unnecessary, but positively injurious to the public interest; and because the duties of the place could be better discharged by officers already in the pay of the Government. The abolition of the office is respectfully recommended.

Attention is respectfully invited to the suggestion in the report of the Ordnance Office, respecting a modification of the act of 1803, in relation to the distribution of small arms to the several States. Great inequalities exist, and great injustice is done to many of the States in the present mode. The recommendations in the report relating to an increase of force in the office, and the regulation of the pay of the clerks, will doubtless receive the consideration to which they are entitled.

The proceedings of the Ordnance board in revising and amending the armament of the troops, are stated in the report. The advantage already derived from the information acquired by the officers who were sent to Europe has evinced the wisdom of that measure.

The danger to the populous places in the vicinity of the stores of gunpowder belonging to the Government and the hazard to which those stores are exposed by such contiguity, suggested the propriety of an inquiry whether a depot for the reserved powder, not wanted for ordinary use, might not be established in some spot where it would be as secure as human art could render it, and where, in case of explosion, the least possible injury would be produced. A board of officers was accordingly appointed to make such inquiry; whose report is herewith submitted, (No. 13) and the adoption of the measures suggested by them is respectfully recommended.

The Quartermaster General's report exhibits the

very extensive operations of that department during the past year, and the efficiency and energy with which they have been prosecuted. They embrace so much of detail as to preclude an enumeration of them in this paper. The various recommendations which are made by the distinguished officer at the head of that department, will doubtless receive all the consideration which is due to the suggestions of great experience and his high military talent. Among those which appear to the undersigned as most deserving immediate attention are the following.

The recommendations of a military road within our acknowledged limits, to supply subsistence and other stores at Forts Kent and Fairfield, in the State of Maine. Circumstances of a peculiar character seem to demand that no time should be lost in the commencement of this work.

The establishment of a strong fort at Fort Brady, with commodious barracks, commanding the communication with Lake Superior, seems also indispensable.

And a post on the Missouri frontier, south of Fort Leavenworth, is necessary, in connexion with the plan of defence for that portion of our territory.

The propriety of commencing the erection of permanent works in the keys or on the peninsula of Florida, is strongly presented.

Of the utility of opening and improving some, if not all, the interior communications mentioned in the report, at some time, there probably can be little doubt. Whether that time has arrived, will be for the wisdom of Congress to decide.

The delay in the settlement of the accounts of officers, alluded to in the same report, is unquestionably a great and growing evil. A report from the Second Auditor has been made, pursuant to a call from this Department, by which it appears that there are 1,173 accounts remaining in his office unsettled; of which 10 were presented prior to 1839, 4 in that year, 16 in 1840, and 1,143 in 1841. A similar report from the Third Auditor shows that there are 1,814 accounts in his office unsettled; of which 257 were presented prior to 1839, 373 in that year, 436 in 1840, 733 in 1841. Whatever may be the cause of this delay, (which is believed not to be in any want of efficiency in the Auditors or their clerks, but rather in the increased amount of business, and the more frequent calls for information,) its existence is most injurious to the Government, and often ruinous to the individuals concerned. If the remedy is to be found in an increase of force in those officers, there can be no doubt of the necessity of its prompt application.

The change in the mode of accounting for property in the hands of officers, suggested in the same report, is earnestly recommended, as equally necessary to the protection of the Government and the security of its agents. Such a change will do much to diminish the labors of the auditor's offices.

The claims for the subsistence of the troops called into service in Florida, in 1839, by the Governor of that Territory, seems to be just. There is a difficulty, however, in directing their payment by this Department, in consequence of the only appropriation on the subject—that made by the act of September 9, 1841—being, by its reference to the act of 1836, limited to such militia as were called into service under the authority of the War Department. Although such authority was given for a larger number than was actually raised, yet the troops in question seem not to have been called into service under it, but under an act of the Territorial Legislature, and were not mustered into the service of the United States. The case requires the interposition of Congress, as well to defray the charges for subsistence, as to provide for the pay of the troops; and it is hoped that no objections of a merely technical character will prevent full justice being done to the militia who obeyed the call of the Governor.

The strong appeal made by the Quartermaster Gen-

eral to the justice of the country to redeem the pledge given by him to the Creeks, as a consideration for their removal to the West, and of their raising a regiment of warriors who served faithfully in Florida, cannot be resisted consistently with any regard for those principles which it is the object of our institutions to maintain. Infidelity to our engagements, and a refusal to remunerate faithful service, will not increase either the confidence or respect of the Indians who have relied on our honor. It is to be hoped that the subject will be examined, and full justice rendered by the competent authority.

The progress which has been made in the construction and improvement of the fortifications at the different harbors on the sea-coast will be seen from the report of the Chief Engineer. The means for these purposes having been appropriated at the extra session of Congress, but little time has been given for their employment. Still, it will be seen that the works have been vigorously prosecuted, and that probably more than was contemplated has been accomplished.

It will be seen that some of the most important works for the defence of the harbor of New York cannot be continued, for want of the appropriations that were recommended at the late session. It is of the utmost consequence, to the protection of that city, that prompt and decisive action should be had upon the subject.

The same report shows what has been done toward the completion of the various improvements, and the continuation of roads heretofore undertaken by the Government, and in charge of the Engineer Department. The want of appropriations has arrested these works, and exposed some of them to the inevitable injuries consequent upon their being left in an unfinished state. Every consideration of policy and justice seem to require that these should no longer remain, either as memorials of any improvidence in undertaking them, or of an instability of purpose which refuses to prosecute works of unquestioned usefulness. If any of them are of such a character that they ought not to be completed, they should be discontinued directly and unequivocally; and those which are worthy the enterprise of a liberal and paternal Government, should be vigorously prosecuted and finished.

The condition of the Military Academy at West Point is exhibited in the report of the Chief Engineer and in that of the Board of Visitors, selected from the different portions of the United States, to scrutinize all its affairs. There is great reason to congratulate the country upon the success which has attended the preserving efforts of Congress to furnish the means of military instruction to our youth, and of preserving and improving that science upon which our safety in war must at all times depend. In an age remarkable for the extent to which human inventions, in all departments, have been carried, and in which the art of war has undergone essential modifications, from the introduction of new agents and the improvement of those previously existing, it would indeed be a reproach to the intelligence of our country, and a reflection upon the tendencies of our free institutions, if we refused or neglected to avail ourselves of the only means by which we can give to the bravery of our citizens the aid of that science which is alone necessary to render them equal to the skilful cohorts that may be sent to our shores by a European nation. The time has long since passed, if it ever existed, when mere valor could compete with discipline and science. If education be necessary to prepare for any profession, surely that of arms cannot be an exception. As it is, in its nature, one that cannot derive any support from private interest or individual employment, but is wholly public, in its uses, the provision for acquiring it must be made by the Government, or it will not be made at all, or not in a manner and to an extent adequate to the exigency.

By imparting the highest degree of military science

to the young men who are annually sent forth from the Academy, the country gains not only a large number of the accomplished individuals, but the information which they possess becomes diffused among the body of our fellow citizens, and furnishes aliment for the improvement of the militia. Indeed, that sure, ultimate resource, in any conflict in which we may be engaged, will be indebted for its advancement more to the establishment of an institution in which the military knowledge of the world is collected, preserved, and taught, than to any other cause. The spirit which would denounce such a reservoir of science and seminary of instruction, would proscribe the books, the maps, charts, mathematical instruments, and all other means and appliances by which the greatest amount of efficiency is given to physical force and intellectual strength.

The improvements recommended by the Board of Visitors, which are within the competency of this Department, will receive the careful consideration to which the high source from which they emanate entitles them. Those which depend on the action of Congress, it is hoped, will meet the favor of that body. The suggestion that provision be made for an additional instructor, who may relieve the chaplain from some of his present duties, that he may devote more time to the moral instruction of the pupils, will commend itself to every mind that reflects on the dangers in which they are exposed in consequence of their being "separated from the wholesome restraints of friends and kindred, and deprived of parental guidance."

The remarks of the Visitors on the indispensable necessity of new and enlarged barracks as well for the health as the intellectual improvements of the cadets, present the subject so strongly as not to admit of any further observations in their support, except the expression of the decided concurrence of this Department in a recommendation that has already been strenuously urged upon the attention of Congress.

The course of instruction at West Point is however imperfect in one essential particular—the means of acquiring practical knowledge of the duties of sappers, miners, and pontoniers. Although it is not probable that, in any war in which this country may be engaged, we shall have occasion to attack many other fortifications than such as may be captured from us by an enemy; yet, while the knowledge referred to would be indispensable even for such a purpose, the defence of such places equally requires that we should understand the means by which they would be assailed, that we may be prepared to counteract them. But in any warfare which should be carried on upon our territory, the most effectual means of crossing streams by the construction of bridges, or otherwise, with the greatest expedition, of embarrassing an enemy in his march or retreat, and of protecting our own forces, would be elements of the greatest importance, and like all other operations of human agency, they are to be improved and perfected only by the combination of science with practical experience. It is earnestly hoped that these considerations, with those so powerfully stated in the report of the Chief Engineer, and those so repeatedly urged by my predecessors, will induce Congress to make the necessary appropriations for the establishment, at West Point, of a corps, of sappers, miners, and pontoniers.

The report of the officer having charge of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, affords the most satisfactory evidence of the great ability and usefulness of that corps. Having been very recently organized, and not being furnished with means for any extensive operations until within the past year, its capacity and utility are now, for the first time, fully developed. The surveys of the mouth of the Suwanee, of the boundary line between us and Texas from the mouth of the Sabine to Red river, and of the Des Moines and Iowa, rivers, have been completed, while

the most difficult part of the boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin has been finished. The surveys of the lakes, and that of the northeastern boundary, are in progress. The measures preparatory to active operations for the removal of the Red river raft are detailed in the report, and that important work will be prosecuted with vigor.

It will be perceived that the works for the improvement of harbors already authorized have been arranged into two classes; first, those of great importance and immediate necessity; and second, those of perhaps equal importance, but in respect to which there are no peculiar circumstances so urgent for speedy action as in the first class. The plan of proceeding gradually, with a due regard to economy and the condition of the Treasury, and with reference to the just and equal claims of the different portions of the country, will it is believed, be more likely to accomplish a greater amount of the desired improvement than any other mode.

The total estimate for the works of the first class is \$375,000 while the very moderate sum of \$30,000 is asked to preserve those of the second class from decay. It should not be inferred that any intention exists of abandoning many most valuable and important works, for which no specific estimates are submitted. On the contrary, the very recommendation to preserve them proceeds from a desire for their completion at the proper time, and in due course, in reference to the principles before stated.

The works for which specific estimates are submitted are upon the Atlantic and lake coasts, of which by far the largest amount is for the former.

While justice is thus done to the maritime frontier, in the improvement of its harbors and in the provisions for its military and naval defences, the exceedingly important and rapidly increasing commerce of the Lakes is fairly entitled to consideration and assistance, by rendering accessible the harbors universally obstructed by natural impediments, and by affording light houses for a hazardous navigation. At the present time, this commerce, based on the productions of seven States and one Territory, must annually exceed \$25,000,000; and as it expands and increases it will give additional value to the public domain, which will soon add its tributary streams to the great tide of internal trade that flows from Lake Superior to the Atlantic.

Having now two corps of officers, composed of gentlemen of the highest scientific acquirements, combined with much experience, there can no longer be any reasons for making appropriations to improve harbors or rivers, in the absence of full and accurate information from those equally competent and disinterested. I concur, therefore, entirely in the remark made by a predecessor in 1839, that the whole system may be brought into deserved disrepute, unless examinations are directed, and reports had, previous to any appropriations for such purposes.

The reports of the Paymaster General and the acting Surgeon General, show the operations of those departments, and the activity that prevails in them.

The reports of the Commissary General of subsistence exhibits several gratifying results. The expense for subsistence will be considerably diminished the ensuing year. There has been great promptness in the rendering of their accounts by the disbursing officers, and in the settlement of those of the army and special contractors and not a cent has been lost during the year through the regular disbursing officers of the department, or its temporary agents.

The report of the Commissary of Purchases contains the usual statements of the quantity of materials of clothing on hand and procured during the year, the quantity made up, and the balance remaining; the quantity each of the different articles made up at the clothing establishment and issued, and the quantity on hand; and the quantity of clothing, and of camp and garrison equipage on hand and purchased during

the year, the quantity issued, and the balance on hand. There is also a statement of the comparative cost of the different articles of clothing, &c., for the last three years, from which it appears there has been a reduction in the cost of nearly all of them during the last year.

Deeming the establishment of a clothing bureau at the city of Washington, in conflict with the provision of the act of May, 1826, by which the Quartermaster's department is charged with the duty of receiving from the purchasing department, and distributing to the army, all clothing and camp and garrison equipage, it has been discontinued, and its business will hereafter be conducted under the supervision of the Quartermaster General. By this arrangement a more effectual accountability is secured.

From the report of the Commissioner of Pensions, it will be seen that during the last year, the number of pensioners on the rolls has diminished more than one third, the greatest proportion having occurred among the invalids, the revolutionary pensioners under the act of 1818, and the widows of certain persons who served in the war of the Revolution, under the act of 1838. The whole number of all descriptions, on the rolls at the date of the last annual report, was forty-four thousand three hundred and ninety-four. The whole number at present is twenty-six thousand five hundred and thirty-one, of whom two thousand six hundred and five are invalids; three thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight receive pensions under the act of 1818; four hundred and thirty-six under the act of 1828; sixteen thousand six hundred and eighty-two under the act of 1832; two thousand three hundred and three under the act of 1836; and five hundred and forty-seven widows under the act of 1838.

The vexatious operations of the act of 1838, which requires pensions, unclaimed for eight months, to be returned to the Treasury, has heretofore been presented to the consideration of Congress, and I cannot but concur in the recommendation for its repeal.

I cannot refrain from calling attention to the case of the wounded Cherokee Indians, to whom the faith of the nation was pledged by the 14th article of the treaty with the Cherokees, of the 29th December, 1825, to provide pensions to such as were engaged on the side of the United States, in the late war with Great Britain and the southern tribes of Indians, and who were wounded in such service. The few who remain have applied in vain to the Pension House for the promised remuneration; but is to be hoped that justice, although tardy, will now be rendered to them.

From the report of the late first clerk of the Bounty Land Office, it appears that about twenty claims for warrants, for revolutionary services, have been filed and duly established since the 1st day of January, 1840, on which day the last law for extending the time for issuing warrants of that class expired; and that one hundred and fourteen claims for warrants on account of services rendered in the late war with Great Britain, have been deposited and established, although the act authorizing such warrants expired on the 26th day of May, 1839. By the report from the same officer, for the year ending 30th September, 1839, it appears that thirteen claims of a similar character were presented and substantiated in that year, after the expiration of the act; and by a like report, for the year 1840, it appears that seventy-six claims were exhibited and established during that year, under the same expired act; making the total number thus established, up to the 15th November last, two hundred and three. The authority for issuing these warrants having expired, it is difficult to perceive on what ground the claims have been received and investigated, or the legal validity of any proofs that may have been taken since that authority ceased.

The same remark applies to the claims for services rendered in the war of the Revolution. The attention of Congress having been repeatedly called to the fact, that the laws on the subject of both these descrip-

tions of claims had become obsolete, and no act reviving them having been passed, the utility of maintaining a distinct bureau for their examination was not perceived; and whatever business remains to be done, has been placed under the supervision of the Commissioner of Pensions, with his assent.

It would be a dereliction of duty to omit calling the attention of Congress to a subject to which it has been so often invited by a predecessor in this department, namely, the insecurity and inconvenience of the buildings in which for want of room in the War Office, the offices of the Paymaster General, of the Ordnance Bureau, of the Chief Military Engineer, of the Topographical Engineers, and the Commissioner of Pensions are kept. Models, surveys, maps, reports, and various documents of incalculable value, belonging to those bureaus, are imminently exposed. Some immediate provision for a suitable building seems indispensable.

By a joint resolution of Congress, approved February 13, 1839, the Secretary of War was authorized to contract for the purchase of the island at the confluence of the St. Peter's and Mississippi rivers; and to report his proceedings to Congress, subject to their approbation or rejection. On the 12th March, 1839, the contract was made, and the sum of \$12,000 agreed to be paid. As the property is deemed necessary for military purposes, being adjacent to Fort Snelling, an estimate for an appropriation for its purchase has been submitted, in a form which will relieve the subject of all difficulty respecting the title to the land, by leaving it to the proper department to ascertain the persons entitled to the purchase money. A communication of my immediate predecessor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the 2d September, 1841, will furnish all the information on the subject in the possession of this Department.

Pursuant to the appropriation in the act of September 9, 1841, for defraying the expenses of selecting a suitable site on the western waters for the establishment of a national armory, a board of officers, consisting of Brevet Brigadier General Armistead, Lieutenant Colonel Long, of the Topographical Engineers, and Surgeon General Lawson, has been appointed to make necessary examinations. They are now engaged in that duty, and their report on the subject will be laid before you, as soon as it shall be received.

The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs presents much valuable information concerning the very important matters in charge of that Bureau. The absence of the Commissioner in the negotiation of a treaty, when the undersigned was called to the Department of War and for some time afterward, together with the very short time allowed for the examination and consideration of the various and complicated relations with the Indian tribes, will account for the omission, in this report, of views and opinions which might be otherwise expected. Believing it to be a branch of the public service requiring peculiar attention and mature deliberation, it will not cease to engage the most strenuous efforts to improve its administration, and promote the interest of the helpless people who are the objects of its care; and, if occasion should require any suggestions for those purposes, they will hereafter be the subject of a special report.

The amendments made by the President and Senate to the treaty with the Miami tribe, were assented to by them in the month of June last thus extinguishing the Indian title to lands throughout the whole State of Indiana. An arrangement has also been made with the Saganaw Indians, by which certain omissions in the treaty of 1837 have been supplied, and the cession of their lands intended to be embraced in it, has been completed.

Since the adjournment of Congress, a treaty has been concluded with some of the bands of the Sioux, for lands not included in any previous negotiation.

and another has been made with the half-breeds of the Sioux, for a cession of the lands set apart to them by the 9th article of the treaty held at Prairie du Chien, on the 15th of July, 1838.

A treaty is now negotiating with the Wyandots for their lands in the State of Ohio, which, it is believed, will soon be brought to a conclusion. The attempt to negotiate with the Sacs and Foxes has utterly failed. As the causes of this failure are believed to be temporary, or such as may be removed by arrangements with other tribes, a renewed effort will be made when a propitious occasion shall offer.

It is a source of regret that the information respecting the state of the Indian schools is so scanty and imperfect. Few subjects commend themselves more strongly to all our sympathies as men and Christians, than the education and civilization of the Indian tribes; and, so far as depends on this Department, the obligations resulting from the provisions made in various treaties for that purpose, and from the appropriations by Congress, shall be faithfully discharged.

The recommendation of the Commissioner to revive the investigation into claims arising under the 14th article of the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, and that proposing that authority should be given for the sale of lands at once, upon their being ceded, on which buildings have been erected, or improvements have been made by the United States, are respectfully commended to the consideration of Congress.

The condition of the accounts of the disbursing agents demands prompt attention. There appear to be large balances against some of those agents, who are supposed to be entitled to credits of equal amounts for expenditures, but which credits cannot be allowed under existing laws in consequence of the sums thus expended being taken from other funds. Some law like that suggested by the Commissioner, authorizing transfers of appropriations, seems indispensable; and the interest of Government as well as of the agents, requires that it should be passed as speedily as possible.

Measures have been taken to execute the act of 1834, in relation to intrusions on Indian lands, for the purpose of preventing the sale of liquor and unlicensed trading, which it is hoped may prove successful.

Respectfully submitted,

To the PRESIDENT. JOHN C. SPENCER.

WESTERN ARMORY.—The officers composing the Board for selecting the site of the Western Armory, returned to the city day before yesterday, from the upper Mississippi. They were waited upon yesterday by Mr. Thomas and a Committee from the City Council. Mr. Thomas' report, we believe, has been made to the Council. Yesterday the Board left for Belleville, Ill., to look at the sites proposed there, and also to examine the coal banks, &c., on that side of the river. So far as we have heard of their proceedings, they appear to be making their investigations very complete; they thoroughly examining, by personal inspection, all the sites proposed, and we doubt not ample justice will be done to the claims of all the proposed sites.

In connexion with this subject, we cut the following from the Ottawa (Ill.) Free Trader:

Gen. W. K. Armstrong, Lieut. Col. S. H. Long, Surgeon General T. Lawson, and Secretary, who were appointed by the President to select a site for the Western Armory, arrived in Ottawa on Monday evening last, via Peru. They remained here until Wednesday, during which time they examined the advantages which this vicinity offers for the establishment of the Armory. They examined the Rapids between Ottawa and Peru—Fox river, from its mouth to Dayton—the Illinois river, from Marseilles to this place, and also the water power at Ottawa. They took notes of all their examinations, and appeared to be much pleased with the country and the many inducements it offers for the establishment of the Armory.—*St. Louis Republican, Dec. 3.*

WASHINGTON CITY,

THURSDAY....DECEMBER 23, 1841.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

JOHN C. SPENCER, of New York, to be Secretary of War, in the place of John McLean, of Ohio, who declined accepting the appointment.

At a Marine General Court Martial, held at the Marine Barracks, Washington, commencing on the 23d November, 1841, First Lieutenant George F. Lindsay was tried upon charges furnished by Lieut. A. G. Gordon, of the U. S. navy, and found not guilty. The finding was approved on the 10th December.

Lieut. Lindsay has been released from arrest, and restored to duty.

In extracting those portions of the President's message, which related to the army and navy, we unintentionally omitted the deservedly complimentary notice of the services of that portion of the army which is in Florida. This notice was in the first part of the message, and escaped our observation when the scissors were at their work. We subjoin it now, late as it is.

"The war with the Indian tribes on the peninsula of Florida has, during the last summer and fall, been prosecuted with untiring activity and zeal. A summer campaign was resolved upon as the best mode of bringing it to a close. Our brave officers and men, who have been engaged in that service, have suffered toils and privations, and exhibited an energy which, in any other war, would have won for them unfading laurels. In spite of the sickness incident to the climate, they have penetrated the fastness of the Indians, broken up their encampments, and harassed them unceasingly. Numbers have been captured, and still greater numbers have surrendered, and have been transported to join their brethren on the lands elsewhere allotted to them by the Government; and a strong hope is entertained that, under the conduct of the gallant officer at the head of the troops in Florida, that troublesome and expensive war is destined to a speedy termination. With all the other Indian tribes we are enjoying the blessings of peace. Our duty, as well as our best interests, prompts us to observe, in all our intercourse with them, fidelity in fulfilling our engagements, the practice of strict justice, as well as the constant exercise of acts of benevolence and kindness. These are the great instruments of civilization and through the use of them alone can the untutored child of the forest be induced to listen to its teachings."

In the House of Representatives of Georgia, the following resolutions were agreed to:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, That we instruct our Senators and request our Representatives in Congress, to use their exertions to procure the passage of an act to pay for horses lost, or turned over, in Florida campaigns, under the command of Gen. C. H. Nelson; And be it further

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

TERMS OF THE CHRONICLE.

One Copy \$3 a year.—Two Copies one year, or one Copy two years, \$5.—Five Copies to one address, \$1

PASSENGERS.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 12, per steampacket Wm. Seabrook, from Charleston, Lieut. S. E. Muse, of the army. Dec. 15, per steampacket Gen. Clinch, from Pilatka, Dr. D. Harlan, Lieut. W. S. Drayton, P Mid J. H. Adams, Mid C. R. P. Rodgers and A. J. Dallas, of the navy.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 14, per steampacket Wm. Seabrook, from Savannah, Major W. L. McClintock, of the army, and Purser J. Bryan, of the navy.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Dec. 10, per steamer W. Gaston, from Southern posts, Dr. Harlan, Lieut. Drayton, P Mid Adams, and Mids Rodgers and Dallas, of the navy.

Intelligence.

FLORIDA WAR.

Correspondence of the Savannah Republican.

TAMPA, NOV. 24, 1841.—To-morrow or next day a party of the enemy will be in, and that will complete the whole number of Indians who have frequented that district of the country, lying between this and the Suwanee—all Tallahasseees. A large party will assemble at Fort Fanning early next month. At their own request, transportation has been sent to take them to that post. This will be accomplished through a party of friendly Indians sent from this place.

The friendly and influential Indians are now disseminated over all the Territory, and from every point the accounts give great assurance of success. I am just stepping on board the boat for the Caloosahatchee, where a number of operating detachments have assembled. They will be put in motion on the 20th inst. The Southern bands are quarrelling and many of the disaffected have come in already. Sam Jones's power is lost and he cannot array any thing like a formidable force against our company. He is now hotly pursued, and the officers after him are sanguine. I hope shortly to be able to tell you from the Everglades that all is over.

THE BRITISH EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—The ship Jeannette arrived yesterday from Sydney, New South Wales, sailed in company with Her Majesty's Exploring Expedition, composed of the sloops of war Erebus and Terror, under command of Capt. Ross, for New Zealand. The Expedition would visit the Archipelago or Antarctic Ocean, next season.—*New York Express.*

A letter from Capt. Ross states that he has got within twelve degrees of the South Magnetic Pole. This gentleman is nephew of Sir John Ross, and was with his uncle and Sir Edward Parry in their North Pole expeditions. First and last he has spent eight winters and fourteen summers in the arctic regions.—*London Correspondence of the N. Y. Evening Post.*

We hear that Captain D'Aubigny, an officer in the French Navy, and who has been commissioned by Louis Philippe to visit the United States, for the purpose of obtaining information in relation to navigation, and particularly steam navigation in this country, has been in this city for several days. Capt. D'A. has already visited our navy yard, and expressed himself much gratified. He is an officer of high professional and scientific acquirement.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

We have now in the Mediterranean, 13 sail of the line; six more have gone round from Toulon to Cherbourg; 14 other armed vessels, principally frigates, are at sea; and we have besides, all ready for sea, 20 corvettes of thirty to sixteen guns, 32 brigs of twenty to ten guns, 30 flotilla boats, 28 transports, and 30 war steamers.—*Paris Globe.*

MISCELLANY.

JOURNAL OF THE CRUISE OF THE U. S. SHIP OHIO, COMMODORE ISAAC HULL, COMMANDER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IN THE YEARS 1840, AND '41. BY N. P. TORRY. For sale by GEO. L. CURRY & Co, 167 Broadway.

This little book is dedicated to the Seamen of the United States Navy, and will, we dare say, be well received by them. The author is of their class, and served in the ship on the cruise now described. It is a sort of private log book, and has every appearance of having been kept with fidelity. There is a good deal of interest in the narration of events, and though perhaps a foremast hand is not to be considered the best judge of discipline on board a man-of-war, it is impossible to read some of his statements without agreeing with him, as to the necessary severity of punishment, and the gross and wanton oppression on the part of a few of the subordinate officers. Of most of the officers, and of his gallant old Commodore especially, he uniformly speaks well.—*New York Courier and Enquirer.*

SHIP BUILDING.—Some material alterations have taken place in the construction or the interior arrangements of our ships, within the last two or three years, the most important of which is the plan, now almost universally adopted, of building the forecastle on deck. In some of them, stoves have, been placed for the comfort of seamen; (and for the life of us we cannot conceive why the comfort of sailors should not be as well provided for as that of the officers, on board our merchant ships.) In the 'Sharon,' a new barque, intended for a packet, now lying at Lewis's wharf, we notice a still further modification of the plan of construction the forecastle; it is placed aft, just in front of the cabin, with a passage way of about 5 feet between the two. It is in a dry part of the ship, and so far as the water thrown over the bows is concerned, will undoubtedly be quite as dry as the cabin. It strikes us that this is a great improvement over the other method of placing the forecastle.—*Boston Telegraph.*

COURT MARTIAL AND CAPTAIN BOLTON.—A swarm of navy officers in uniform were parading our navy yard yesterday morning, drawn together principally by the court martial ordered to convene to try Captain Bolton, for making a premature return home in the frigate Brandywine. At 11 o'clock, the court convened in the new court room, built for the purpose, over the Marine Guard House, Commodore Jones presiding, and Commodores John Downes, Henry E. Ballard, E. P. Kennedy, John B. Nicolson, W. B. Shubrick, and Captain Daniel Turner, members, being present.

Captain Bolton making no objection to the legality of the organization, the usual oath—well and truly to try, not to divulge the sentence, &c.—was administered by the Judge Advocate, Charles H. Winder Esq. of Baltimore, to the members of the court, and afterwards the usual oath of the Judge Advocate by the President. The court being fully organized, the charge—"Disobedience of Orders"—embracing three several specifications was read by the Judge Advocate, and followed by the query—"guilty or not guilty"—addressed to Captain Bolton, who promptly responded, "Not guilty, certainly." The Captain, with the consent of the court, introduced Col. James Page as his counsel.

The witnesses called were Captain Lavallette, who did not appear, and Commander Mercer, who was 1st lieutenant of the Brandywine; he appeared, and underwent an examination, the nature of which differed very little from his testimony before the court of Inquiry in New York. He said that Captain Bolton violated no order, and that his failure to touch at the

ports of Cadiz and Lisbon for intelligence was occasioned by each of them being within the influence and control of British men-of-war.—*Phila. Chron.*

NAVAL BALL.—The Ball given by the wardroom and steerage officers of the *Columbus*, on Wednesday evening, in a large building in the Navy Yard at Charlestown, was truly a magnificent affair. All the arrangements were made in excellent taste; and some four or five hundred of the citizens of Boston and Charlestown were present, and were undoubtedly highly gratified with the proceeding, which reflected much credit on the gallantry and taste of the managers.—*Boston Mercantile Journal.*

From the New York American.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.—Another session of Congress is at hand, when, amidst the pressing duties which demand its attention, we trust the renewal of the pension for the widows of Revolutionary and Florida officers will not be forgotten. These, in the first instance, are the aged relicts of those heroic spirits who "fought, and bled, and died," to procure for us liberty and independence. They are just on the verge of the grave, awaiting the summons to join those from whom they have been long separated. The latter are equally worthy the fostering care of the Government. They have been prematurely deprived of their protectors and companions, by the call of their country to contend with a savage enemy in a most harassing and trying warfare; and the country is to reap the advantage and benefit of their sacrifices and devotion. Many of the officers who have fallen in the Florida service have been inhumanly massacred by the Indians, to gratify their blood-thirsty revenge upon the whites, some few in gallant bearing upon the field of battle, while others have sunk under the influence of the climate, in the prosecution of their duty.

To the widows of those who have been slain in action, a five years' pension has been granted—a pittance barely sufficient to furnish them with necessary bread; when this shall expire, they are again left to struggle with poverty and a heartless world.

We trust there are among the present members of Congress some patriotic spirits who will espous their cause. Will not the Secretary of War suggest something in his report for their relief? And last, but not least, will not the chivalric Scott, now at the head of the army, speak for the soldier's widow—the relicts of those who loved to serve with and follow him in his path to glory, sustaining with him the hardships and perils of war, and yielding their best efforts to assist in placing upon his brow the wreath of honor which now so justly adorns it?

We trust the Secretary will recommend to Congress such measures for their relief, as his wisdom and humanity shall dictate.

[We add our hearty good wishes for the success of a measure that will bring acceptable relief to so many suffering and deserving objects.—*Ed. A. & N. C.*]

In the Exchange yesterday, Mr. McDonald exhibited an invention of his for securing steamboats, ships, and in fact every species of floating craft, from sinking, by leaks or other perils upon the "great deep." He proposes to have inserted between the beams on each deck, large tin vessels, water tight, to keep up the buoyancy of the ship. He also proposes to place similar vessels along the 'kelson,' and in other unoccupied portions of the ship, so that it would be next to impossible to sink any craft. His plan is simple, and yet effective, and worthy of the attention of those engaged in ship commerce or ship building. His models, with diagrams and explanations, may be seen at the Exchange.—*Philadelphia North American.*

NAVY.

Dec. ORDERS.

- 14—Capt W D Salter, command of steamer *Mississippi*.
 Lieut W H Ball, frigate *United States*.
 Lieut J J Almy, depot of charts, &c.
 Mid E H Scovell, receiving ship, New York.
 15—Comm'r W F Shields, rendezvous, N Orleans.
 Comm'r J R Jarvis, rendezvous, New Bedford.
 Lieut L M Powell, temporary command of ship *Ontario*; afterwards, for duty at rendezvous, New Orleans
 Lieut B J Totten, ordinary, Boston.
 Lieut J W Swift, navy yard, New York.
 Lieut T Turner, rendezvous, Kensington
 Lieut J B Lewis, receiving vessel, Alexandria.
 Lieut R C Cogdell, ship *Warren*.
 Purser Geo H White, steamer *Fulton*.
 Mid W W Wilkinson, J J Waddell, P H Haywood, receiving ship, Norfolk.
 16—Lieut L B Newell, rendezvous, Kensington
 Surgeon D Egbert, do do
 Lieut L G Keith, receiving vessel, Norfolk.
 Mid R D Minor, W O Crain, West India squadron.
 17—Comm'r J Moorhead, receiving ship, New York.
 Lieut S Lockwood, rendezvous, New Bedford.
 Lieut W S Ogden, do do
 Carpenter John Southwick, rec ship, Boston.
 18—Mid Geo B Douglass, do Norfolk.
 Mid Geo T Simes, do Boston.

OFFICERS RELIEVED AND DETACHED.

- 13—Lieut B W Hunter, from ship *Warren*.
 14—Lieut J B Cutting, from frigate *United States*.
 15—P Mid W P McArthur, from brig *Consort*.

RESIGNATIONS.

- 13—John Thruston, acting Midshipman.
 18—George M Comegys, do.

APPOINTMENTS.

- 17—Ezra Chamberlain, acting Boatswain.
 Edward W Barnicoat, acting Carpenter.

MARRIAGES.

At the U. S. navy yard, New York, on the 15th inst., ROBERT S. son of the late Commodore RODGERS, to SARAH, daughter of Captain M. C. PERRY, of the U. S. navy.

In Wilmington, Delaware, on the 14th inst., Lieut. C. W. BENNETT, of the U. S. Revenue cutter service, to Miss MARY, daughter of WILLIAM ROWAN, of that place.

In Platte county, Missouri, on the 2d inst., Dr. JOSEPH WALKER, of the U. S. army, to Miss FRANCES JANE, daughter of Judge M. M. HUGHES, of that county.

MARINE TELEGRAPH FLAGS.—The undersigned has furnished two thousand sail of vessels with the Marine Telegraph Flags, and has lately published the second edition of the new Semaphoric Signal Book, wherein is engrafted Marryatt's Signal Numbers, embracing twelve thousand sail of vessels, as adopted by the British and French Governments, at Lloyd's Coffee House, London, and used by the Holyhead and Liverpool Line of Telegraphs.

Dec. 9—15

JOHN R. PARKER,

Proprietor Semaphoric Telegraph.

For sale by B. HOMANS, at the office of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

CLASSICAL & MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL

—NEAR WEST POINT, N. Y.—

Z. J. D. KINSLEY, a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, and for many years instructor of artillery in that institution, residing on his farm contiguous to West Point, will receive into his family and instruct a limited number of pupils, in the usual branches of a thorough English education; and, if desired, in so much of the classics as to prepare them to enter College.

The academic year will consist of two terms of five months each. the winter term will commence on the first of November, and will close on the 31st of March: the summer term on the 1st of May, and close on the 30th of September.

Pupils will be received at any time, and instruction will be continued during vacation for the benefit of such pupils as may wish to remain, at the same rate as during the term.

EXPENSES.—For board, tuition, lodgings, lights, washing and fuel, per term, for pupils under 12 years of age, - - - \$100
Over 12 years and under 17, - - - - - 125
Over 17 years, - - - - - 150
Payments to be made quarterly, in advance.

For any period less than two months, the charge will be \$30 per month.

Books, stationery, and clothing, can be furnished on reasonable terms, at the expense of the pupil.

The course of instruction will embrace the usual branches of an English education; viz: reading, writing, grammar, composition, declamation, geography, history, and rhetoric; arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, mensuration, and surveying; and for those who may desire it, a popular course of civil engineering, natural philosophy, navigation, and astronomy; also, moral philosophy, and the Constitution of the United States and that of the State of New York. In the French language, the usual exercises of the French grammar, and the reading and translation of *Telemaque*; and in Latin and Greek, the course required to enter the freshman class of Yale College.

On the Sabbath, besides attending Divine Service, a bible lesson will be required from each pupil. The object of the whole system of instruction will be "to train up a child in the way he should go," which can be effected only by a Christian education.

The Chaplain of the U. S. Military Academy is invited to supervise the course of moral and religious instruction.

Although it is not the design of the school, in any wise, to provide a military education, still, unless excused by parents or guardians, pupils will be taught so much of the elementary drill of the soldier as contributes to health, and to an easy and graceful carriage.

The regulations for the internal discipline and police of the school will be strict, and, at the same time, parental. No pupil of vicious habits will be permitted to remain in the school a single day; and, as a condition of admission, every pupil will be required to pledge himself to abstain entirely from the use of tobacco and all intoxicating drinks.

REFERENCES.

Col. S. THAYER, Boston,	Professor CHAS. DAVIES, Hartford, Conn.,
Rev. Dr. WAINWRIGHT, N. Y.	Rev. B. S. PEERS, New York,
Gen. DIX, Albany,	JAS. V. SCHOONHOVEN, Esq., Troy.
Gen. RUFUS KING, Albany,	
President LINDSLY, Nashville, Tenn.	

The undersigned have been personally acquainted with Mr. KINSLEY for many years, and, having had a fair opportunity of ascertaining his qualifications as an instructor, do with confidence recommend him to parents and other guardians of youth as fully equal to the task he has undertaken.

D. H. MAHAN, Professor of Engineering,
WM. H. C. BARLETT, Prof. of Nat. and Exp'l Philosophy,
A. E. CHURCH, Professor of Mathematics,
J. W. BAILEY, Prof. of Chemistry and Min. and Geology,
M. P. PARKS, Chaplain, and Prof. of Ethics.
Nov. 18—1f

NOTICE.

If EDWARD A. HOWARD, of Baltimore county, State of Maryland, who enlisted at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, within the last eighteen months or two years, will forward his address by letter to his friend ROBERT S. WILSON, Franklinville, Baltimore county, Maryland, he will confer a favor.
Dec. 2—3f

HAIR MATTRESSES.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
December 18, 1841.

PROPOSALS, sealed and endorsed, will be received at this office until three o'clock P. M. of the 15th January, 1842, for manufacturing, furnishing, and delivering twenty-four hundred mattresses for the use of the Navy, to be delivered as follows: M800 at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, Massachusetts; 800 at the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York; and 800 at the Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia, or before the 1st of April, 1842.

The said Mattresses must be six feet in length, twenty eight inches wide, and made of the purest imported curled horse hair of the first quality. The ticking to be of American manufacture of the best quality—either of *American Ticking*, or equal thereto; the gross weight of each of the said Mattresses to be eleven pounds, or nine pounds of hair without the tick. The hair must be uniform in quality and perfectly clean in its raw state when imported. Each Mattress is to have a cotton check cover of the best quality, with tape strings at one end, so as to be taken off and replaced at pleasure.

The said Mattresses to be subject on delivery to such inspection as the Commissioners of the Navy may authorize or direct, and must be in all respects perfectly satisfactory to the commanders or commanding officers of said navy yards, respectively.

Bonds, with two approved sureties in one-third the amount of the respective contracts entered into, will be required, and ten per centum, in addition, will be withheld from the amount of each payment to be made, as collateral security for the due and faithful

performance thereof, which will not be paid until the contracts be complied with. After deducting ten per centum, payment will be made by the United States within thirty days after said Mattresses are inspected and received, and bills for the same presented to the respective Navy Agents at Boston, New York, and Norfolk, approved by the commanders or commanding officers of said yards, respectively, according to the terms of the contracts.

All the said Mattresses must conform to, and be in quality equal with, the samples deposited in the office of the Commissioners of the Navy.
Dec. 23 td.

REMOVAL.

JOHN SMITH FRASER has removed from No. 168 Pearl street, to No. 122 Broadway, directly opposite the City Hotel, at which place he intends to keep on hand a supply of Military trimmings and equipments. He will sell as cheap, if not cheaper than any one else in the trade; and to the officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, he would respectfully state, that he is now ready to fill any order they may be pleased to send, either for the full dress, or undress, of their respective corps and grades.

Embroideries done in gold or silver, equal in every respect to the French or English.
Dec—23—2m

NOTICE.

PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Commissary General of Purchases, in Philadelphia, to furnish the following materials and articles for the United States Army, for the year 1842, viz:

Blue cloth, 6-4 wide, dyed in indigo and in the wool
Sky blue twilled Cloth, 6-4 wide
Unbleached Cotton Shirting, 7-8 wide
Bleached do do do
Flannel of Cotton and Wool, 7-8 wide
Canton Flannel, 3-4 wide
Unbleached Cotton Drilling, 3-4 and 7-8 wide
Bleached do do 3-4 wide
Uniform Caps, for Dragoons, Artillery and Infantry
Pompoms, for Artillery and Infantry
Hair Plumes, for Dragoons
Bands and Tassels, do
Aiguillettes, Artillery and Infantry
Worsted Sashes, do do and Dragoons
Shoulder Straps, do do
do (brass) for Dragoons
Epaulettes, Non-com'd. Staff, Artillery and Infantry
Woollen half Stockings
Laced Booters
Leather Stocks
Blankets, 6½ feet long, 5 feet wide, weight 4 pounds
Metal Cap Equipments, for Dragoons, Artillery and Infantry
Felling Axes
Hatchets
Spades
Drums, complete with Sticks, Slings and Cases
Worsted Binding and Cord, of all kinds
Common Tents
Wall Tents and Flies
Hospital Tents
Painting and Strapping Knapsacks
Casks and Cooperage, for one year from 1st April next.
(The quantity and number of these articles will be determined hereafter.)

The whole are to be of domestic manufactured materials. Patterns of all the required Woollen and Cotton Cloths and articles are deposited in the Commissary General's Office, in this city, for examination. Samples of the Woollen and Cotton Cloths will be sent to any manufacturer on application to this office, by mail, and such information given as may be desired. The Bootes are to be of eight sizes and the Caps of five sizes. The sizes and proportions of sizes will be stated in the contracts.

On the samples and patterns exhibited, the contracts will be founded and inspections made, and no article will be received that is inferior in the material or workmanship to, or that does not correspond in every respect with, the pattern on which a contract is founded.

The supplies are to be delivered at the United States Arsenal near Philadelphia, for inspection, in equal monthly portions, and the contracts are to be fulfilled on or before the 1st day of July, 1842.

The proposals must be in writing, sealed, and endorsed "Proposals," and must reach the office of the Commissary General of Purchases, on or before the 17th day of January, 1842. No proposal will be received after 3 o'clock of that day.

Security will be required for the fulfilment of contracts.

J. WASHINGTON TYSON,
Commissary General of Purchases.

COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Philadelphia, December 17th, 1841. Dec. 23—td

BOOK AND JOB PRINTING—
Of every variety and description, neatly and expeditiously executed, at the office of the Army and Navy Chronicle, opposite to the Navy Department.